

WASHINGTON, DC - House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (MD) joined House Democratic Leaders and a group of Americans impacted by our current health care system for a press conference on the need for health care reform. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Reforming health care is an economic imperative, a budget imperative, and a moral imperative.

"It is an economic imperative because health insurance premiums have more than doubled since 2000, straining family budgets across America. And with our companies spending twice as much on health care as their foreign competitors, the cost of health care translates into a less productive economy and fewer jobs.

"Reform is a budget imperative, because, unless we find a way to control the growth of health care costs, our country will plunge further and further into debt.

"And reform is a moral imperative, because millions of Americans live without the security of health care that they can rely on and that can never be taken away.

"Those are some of the reasons why we are so dedicated to solving this problem this year. And our resolve has been bolstered by the stories of ordinary Americans who have seen our health care system's deep flaws first-hand.

"Phil Feaster, a constituent of mine, is one of those Americans. He is with us today from Fort Washington, Maryland, and he represents the affordable health care challenges that so many of our seniors face - specifically on what we call the Medicare Part D donut hole, which keeps them from getting affordable prescription drugs. We're glad Mr. Feaster is with us today."

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